In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A hydrodynamic suturing instrument, comprising in combination: a syringe having a barrel and plunger and a connector for detachably mounting a needle, the barrel having a capacity to receive a predetermined size and length of suture and sufficient fluid to draw the suture into the barrel and to expel the suture from the barrel, said syringe defining a hydraulic path and said plunger being mounted to act on the hydraulic path to draw the suture into the syringe; an elongated cannulated suturing needle having a proximal end and a distal end, a lumen of a size to receive said predetermined size and length of suture extending from said proximal end to an opening at said distal end for the passage of a suture, a connector at said proximal end adapted to connect to said syringe barrel connector and said distal end configured to pass with a suture through tissue; and said distal end configured with a sharp point extending forward of said opening to said lumen, said opening configured to receive a suture extending from said lumen along an outer surface of said needle wherein said sharp point extends forward of said suture.

2. (Original) A suturing instrument according to claim 1 wherein said needle has a curved configuration at said distal end.

3. (Original) A suturing instrument according to claim 2 wherein said curved configuration is a cork screw configuration.

4. (Original) A suturing instrument according to claim 2 wherein said curved configuration is a hook configuration.

5. (Currently Amended) A suturing instrument according to claim 1 wherein said opening at said distal end is at a side of said cannula and the trailing edge of said opening is rounded.

6. (Original) A suturing instrument according to claim 5 wherein curved configuration is a cork screw configuration.

7. (Original) A suturing instrument according to claim 5 wherein said curved configuration is a hook configuration.

8. (Currently Amended) A suturing instrument according to claim 1 further comprising a stiffening cover over a major portion of said needle.

9. (Original) A suturing instrument according to claim 1 further comprising: a forceps having a distal end with jaws and a proximal end with a lever to operate at least one of said jaws and a lumen extending from said proximal end to said distal end for passage of said needle; and said jaws having an opening enabling passage of said needle through tissue grasped in said jaws.

10. (Original) A suturing instrument according to claim 9 wherein said needle is curved.

11. (Original) A suturing instrument according to claim 10 wherein said lumen has an oval configuration to aid in orienting said needle.

12. (Original) A suturing instrument comprising: an elongate tubular member having a distal end and a proximal end and a passage extending from said proximal end to said distal end; first and second jaws on said distal end disposed in opposed relation, one of said first and second jaws being moveable relative to the other and having an opening there through, the other of said first and second jaws including an open end of said passage oriented toward said opening; means at said proximal end for moving said moveable jaw between open and closed positions; a syringe having a needle, the needle of sufficient length to extend a forward end thereof through said passage past said open end and through said opening in said one of said jaws, the needle having a cannula of sufficient size to receive a suture; and said syringe having sufficient capacity to draw a predetermined length of suture and liquid into said needle and expel said suture through said opening.

13. (Original) A suturing instrument according to claim 12 wherein said needle has a curved configuration at said forward end.

14. (Currently Amended) A suturing instrument according to claim 13 wherein said ~~lumen~~ cannula has an oval configuration to aid in orienting said needle.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of suturing comprising the steps of: providing an elongate needle having a distal end and a proximal end and a lumen extending from said proximal end to said distal end having sufficient size for passage of a predetermined size suture, said distal end having a tip configured for passage with a suture through a tissue; providing a syringe detachably connected to said needle proximal end; selecting and introducing a length of suture into at least said needle

from outside of said syringe and said needle; filling said syringe with a quantity of liquid; passing said distal end of said needle with said suture through a tissue to be sutured; and expelling said length of suture from said distal end of said needle by hydraulic force from a quantity of said liquid in said syringe.

16. (Original) A method of suturing according to claim 15 wherein said step of selecting and introducing a length of suture into at least said needle comprises: inserting an end of said suture into said distal end of said needle; submerging said distal end of said needle with said suture in a quantity of liquid; and drawing said length of suture and a quantity of liquid into said needle with said syringe.

17. (Original) A method of suturing according to claim 16 wherein said needle is provided to have a curved configuration at said distal end.

18. (Original) A method of suturing according to claim 15 wherein said needle is provided to have a stiffening cover over a major portion of said needle.

19. (Original) A method of suturing according to claim 15 further comprising the steps of: providing an elongate tubular member having a distal end and a proximal end and a passage extending from said proximal end to said distal end, first and second jaws on said distal end disposed in opposed relation, one of said first and second jaws being moveable relative to the other and having an opening there through, the other of said first and second jaws including an open end of said passage oriented toward said opening, and means at said proximal end for moving said moveable jaw between open and closed positions; providing said elongate needle of sufficient length to extend said distal end thereof through said passage

past said open end and through said opening in said one of said jaws; and grasping a tissue to be sutured between said first and second jaws; and extending a said distal end thereof through said passage past said open end through said tissue and through said opening in said one of said jaws.

20. (Original) A method of suturing according to claim 19 wherein said needle is provided to have a curved configuration at said distal end; and said passage having an oval configuration to accommodate and maintain said curved needle oriented.